

Tele-Visions

BY THORTON KANE

The new television season has just arrived and with it has come a passel of cowpokes, a clutch of private eyes and a basketful of bumbling fathers (who rarely know best).

The new season, like last year's, has something for everybody providing, of course, that everybody is nuts about horses, holsters and haranged daddies. Of course, not everybody is.

Set-siders who like comedy or drama might as well reduce the cabinets to kindling, because the fall programs have very little to offer in these two areas. And there's nothing like a roaring blaze to help a person forget his woes.

This season we are without a weekly dramatic series, something of a dubious first for television. Except for an occasional special by DuPont or Hallmark, the networks have nothing to offer in the way of dramatic fare other than the undiluted track dished out by Loretta Young, June Allyson or Barbara Stanwyck.

The future looks a little brighter for comedy fans. Jack Benny and Red Skelton are still the only comedians to have a weekly series and television certainly would be dead without them.

Even though there is a dearth of comics on the little screen, there is the happy prospect of the funnymen—Jonathan Winters, Buddy Hackett, Bob Newhart, Shelley Berman—popping up on the Ed Sullivan or Jack Paar shows. It's better than no appearances at all.

Many of the top comedians, such as George Gobel, have complained that their brand of humor has been forced off the tube because of interference by sponsors and grumblings from various pressure groups. That may very well be true, but last week Victor Borge staged one of television's funniest hours without every touching the so-called controversial areas. If he can do it, there is no reason why the rest of the comics can't.



WELL, WHATDAYA KNOW—Bob Horton is threatened with suspension by Revue, home of "Wagon Train," iffen he doesn't show for work tomorrow. Keep it up, Bob, and the train will never make Denver. . . . Guess who'll emote on CBS-TV's hour spec, "The Right Man," on Oct. 24, as Teddy Roosevelt—E. G. Robinson. **CHARGE!** . . . Dean Martin's Nov. 1 TVer will feature Frank Sinatra. I wouldn't be surprised if the rest of "The Clan" showed up, too. . . . Herbert Marshall and daughter Sarah will be seen in "Colonel Cat" seg of "Hong Kong" series—playing father and daughter, natch! . . . KHJTV's new spook movie theater features "Zacherley" as host. Sort of male Vampira. I'm scared already? . . . "The Untouchables," who feared a shortage of scripts about new, have received 35 plots in the last two weeks—from Ex-FBI agents! . . . "Aquanuts" is paging James Mason. Want him to **DROWN** in one of their episodes. Sounds like a **GREAT** part! . . . Ed Sullivan's Oct. 16 shows features Mort Sahl, who signed only after the sponsors and CBS guaranteed no censorship. What do you plan on saying, Mort? . . . For Peter "Lawman" Brown fans. You can see the lad in Burbank Nov. 11, leading the Veterans' Day Parade. Has anyone ever seen him on a horse, by the way? . . . It is interesting to note that 10 countries to date have agreed to carry the four Nixon-Kennedy debates, in case anyone still doubts the worldwide interest in American politics. . . . Look for a new CBS-TV series, "Pygmalion," to debut in the near future. Hour-long episodes based on a novel concerning a plastic surgeon who heals you "inside and outside." Well, we've had **ALMOST** everything else on TV!

Allen of 'Why Not' Fame Voice Behind 'Deputy Dawg' Show

Every Saturday at 7 p.m. when KTTV's "Deputy Dawg" adn his animal pals of the big swamp prance across television screens, viewers are treated to the sound of the most versatile vocal chords in America.

Proud possessor of this versatility is comedian Dayton Allen who provides voices for all the "Deputy Dog" characters.

Dayton Allen achieved national prominence recently on the TV show of another man named Allen—Steve Allen. Dayton tickled the nation's funnybone as the mixed-up character who always asked "Why not?"

True, since Dayton came up with the "Why Not?" character he has achieved na-

tional recognition—not only on TV but, also, on records and in books. But this is a bit ironic because Dayton Allen was making people laugh for years before the "Why not?" craze came along.

A native of New York City, he was graduated from high school in the middle of the depression and took a job as movie projectionist, screening films in schools, prisons and mental institutions.

In 1940, he landed a job as a radio disc jockey because of his ability to do different voices. "Made it seem as if they had a big personnel," he adds.

During World War II, he traveled with the USO and Special Service units, doing shows at military camps.

In 1948, he landed his first job in television—"The Okey Doky Show," with Wendy Barrie. He, also, was on the "Howdy Doody" show, creating the character of Mr. Bluster, and on the "Winky Dink" show as Mr. Bungle, the landlord.

For the past 10 years, Dayton has worked for Terrytoons, doing the voices in the "Heckle and Jeckle" series along with dozens of others. Now he has reached his zenith with the "Deputy Dawg" menagerie.

All the animals in "Deputy Dawg" have southern accents. "No trouble at all," says Dayton. "Ask me to do a Kurd tribesman, a middle-European aristocrat or an Eskimo fur peddler and I will give you a reasonable facsimile thereof. I can even do a snake, slipping soundlessly over the trackless desert. Know how to snake sounds? Like this: 'Hiss'"

When he records the voices in the "Deputy Dawg" series, Dayton likes to act out all of the characters. He grabs a script, sheds his own personality, and takes on the guise of friendly old Deputy Dawg, the sheriff, squeaky Vincent, Van Gopher, Ty Coon, Lynx the Jinx or Muskie the Muskrat.

One of the truly funny men in the entertainment world today, Dayton takes exception with the "sick" comedians. "They are against everything," he says. "Now me, I'm against most things, but there are a few things I hold sacred—like motherhood and money!"



DAYTON ALLEN

Hayward to Head Pay TV for Zenith's Teco

Leland Hayward, theatre and motion picture producer, has been retained to direct the subscription television programming activities of Teco, Inc., it was announced today by Pieter E. van Beek, president.

Teco, Inc., an Illinois corporation, has been licensed by Zenith Radio Corporation to engage in subscription television operations using Zenith's Phonovision systems.

"Teco intends to pioneer in the field of top quality television programming," van Beek said. "In the event the Federal Communications Commission authorized the proposed test of Phonovision's over-the-air system in Hartford, Conn., our association with Mr. Hayward will permit us to become one of the program suppliers for the Hartford test."

Zenith and Teco earlier this year completed arrangements with RKO General, Inc., for

the latter to conduct a three year trial of subscription TV in Hartford. RKO General has pledged itself to the expenditure of up to \$10,000,000 in the three year period of the Hartford test.

Hayward said that subscription television in essence is the largest theater ever built. "If we can produce the entertainment people are willing to buy, and I have no doubt that we can, subscription television will give us the largest number of box office customers the entertainment industry has ever had. If you translate this in terms of new opportunities for creating entertainment, we may well be standing on the threshold of a completely new era in the history of entertainment. As far as I am concerned, I want to be part of it," he said.

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'Step on the Gas' U.S. Steel Feature

"Step on the Gas," a comedy-and music story of the American motorist will star Jackie Cooper, Hans Conried, Pat Carroll, Shari Lewis, and guest star Shirley Jones, on the U.S. Steel Hour. The Max Liebman special will be presented Wednesday, October 19, at 10 PST, via channel 2.

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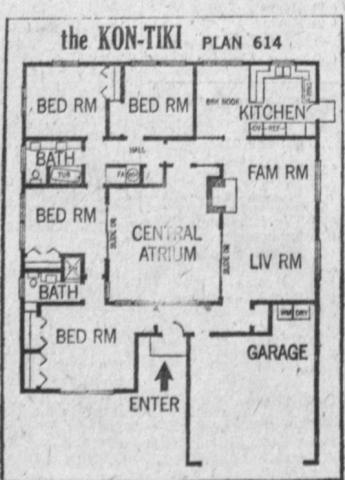
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